



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TRENTON, NJ 08625
(609) 984-1900

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO
Secretary of State

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTIONS
2016 GENERAL ELECTION
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The New Jersey Division of Elections accepts petitions on behalf of the Secretary of State, who serves as the Chief Election Official of the State of New Jersey. Set forth below are qualifications for candidacy along with an overview of the statutory requirements for submitting petitions to conform with Title 19, the Election Laws of New Jersey.

Candidate petitions may be filed in person or mailed, but must be received by the deadline date, on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-9)

Pursuant to the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 2, Clause 2, to qualify as a candidate for the office of United States House of Representatives, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall have attained the age of 25 years by the day of the swearing into office
- a United States Citizen for seven years by the day of the swearing into office
- a resident of New Jersey by the day of the election

Each candidate should read and follow petition instructions carefully in order to ensure that the petition is accepted for filing for the office of United States House of Representatives.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:13-3 et seq., petitions must meet the following requirements:

- Names, addresses and signatures of at least 100 registered voters in the Congressional District. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-5);
- Candidate's name and address must appear on each petition. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-6);
- Signed Affidavit of Circulator of the petition. **Note: Affidavit must be notarized.** The person who circulates the petition does not have to be a signer of the petition and shall not be required to be a registered voter, but shall be voter eligible, which means at least 18 years of age, a resident of this State, a citizen of the United States, and not otherwise disqualified from voting under the State Constitution or election laws of New Jersey.;
- Certificate of Acceptance and Oath of Allegiance signed by the candidate. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8). **Note: Oath of allegiance must be notarized.**
- Insert your designation/slogan which must not exceed three (3) words "...no such designation shall contain the designation name, derivative, or any part thereof as a noun or an adjective of any political party entitled to participate in the primary." (N.J.S.A. 19:13-4).

The person submitting a petition will be asked to provide the day and evening telephone numbers of the candidate. This is in the event that someone files a challenge to the candidate petition. The daytime phone number will also be used for public information purposes, i.e., press/citizen inquiry.

This information sheet is not meant to encompass all of the statutory and constitutional requirements for filing petitions, but is to be used only as a guide. If you have any additional questions, you may wish to seek legal counsel.

Completed candidate petitions can either be hand-delivered or mailed to the addresses listed below.

Office Location :

225 W. State Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Mailing Address for United States Postal Service:

P.O. Box 304
Trenton, NJ 08625-0304

Delivery address for all other carriers, i.e., UPS, FedEx, etc.:

225 W. State Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Schedule a candidate petition filing appointment:

In an effort to improve the petition filing experience, the Division of Elections is now offering petition filers an opportunity to schedule an appointment prior to the petition filing date. Scheduling an appointment will improve the petition filing process and help reduce the time spent filing your petition.

We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!

Schedule an appointment by visiting <http://nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-petitions-filing.html>.